

# 2016 Accomplishment Report

Pokégnek Bodéwadmik  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Pokégnek Bodéwadmik (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) will respectfully promote and protect the culture, dignity, education, health, welfare and self-sufficiency of our elders, our youth, our families and our future generations while preserving Mother Earth. We will strive to give Pokagon citizens a better quality of life. The Band will also strive for successful economic strength thus assuring the sovereignty of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

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## Sense of place: édaygo home

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John P. Warren  
CHAIRMAN



Bob Moody, Jr.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN



Eugene Magnuson  
TREASURER



Mark Parrish  
SECRETARY



Andy Jackson  
MEMBER AT LARGE



Michaelina Martin  
MEMBER AT LARGE



Becky Price  
MEMBER AT LARGE



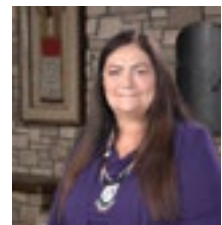
Roger Rader  
MEMBER AT LARGE



Matthew Wesaw  
MEMBER AT LARGE



Steve Winchester  
MEMBER AT LARGE



Judy Winchester  
ELDERS  
REPRESENTATIVE

## Boozhoo Tribal Citizens,

It's been a great honor and privilege to have served you this past year. The Pokagon Band is truly blessed that our ancestors had the foresight to negotiate the 1833 Chicago Treaty that allowed the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi not to be removed west. At one time we roamed over **5.2 million acres**, and then lost all holdings through treaties. **One hundred and eighty-five years** later the Pokagon Band has acquired over **6,000 acres**, and half of those land holdings are in federal trust thanks to President Clinton signing into law the Pokagon Band Restoration Act **22 years** ago.

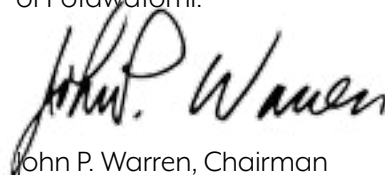
Tribal Council worked very hard to get the fourth consolidation site South Bend property into trust. Currently, South Bend housing construction is under way. One quad unit townhome and one elders duplex are being built. Construction of an 1,800 slot Four Winds Casino is underway and should be ready for a grand opening sometime in the first quarter of 2018. Also, Hartford tribal housing was completed, including one four-unit townhome, one ADA duplex, and one elders duplex.

In Dowagiac, an infrastructure upgrade to the Rodgers Lake waste water treatment system was completed to meet the tribe's needs for the next 20 years. The Cultural Center was completed and Language & Culture staff are moved into the building. Pokagon Health Services expanded services to Pokagon family members and employees. In February 2016, the Pokagon Band started issuing enhanced security IDs for which the Pokagon Band received the highest rating possible from the Department of Homeland Security.

This past year, the tribe took a big step with agriculture by entering into year two of a three-year process of transitioning 1,000 acres of land into certified organic farmland. The Pokagon Band partnered with Michigan State University to develop feasibility studies and a business plan for agricultural initiatives. With GMOs growing in the agricultural industry, it's important to your tribal leaders that the Pokagon Band know what's grown on our tribal land, and by going organic we will accomplish that goal.

Our Bodéwadmi language is now being taught in Hartford High School and Southwestern Michigan College, thanks to the collaborative relationships developed by our Pokagon Education and Language & Culture Departments. The Pokagon Band signed an MOA with the Michigan Department of Education, which allows the Pokagon Band to tribally endorse our own language speakers to teach our language in schools and colleges. We are sharing our stories in new ways, via our own podcast *Yajmownen*, and through weekly *Bodéwadmik Blasts* to almost 1,800 citizens. Check out our website for more details on both.

As always, it's amazing the growth the Pokagon Band has experienced in the 22 years since our Reaffirmation Act was signed into law. Most of the development and infrastructure has been accomplished only in the past 10 years. Join me in thanking all those ancestors, elders, and many of our tribal citizens that made great sacrifices to help the Pokagon Band achieve so much over the past two decades. We pray that the Creator of all things keep blessing you, your families, and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.



John P. Warren, Chairman

Boozhoo Pokagon citizens,

On behalf of the Pokagon Band's finance team, I am pleased to submit the treasurer's report for the fiscal year, ended December 31, 2016.

This annual report to Pokagon Band citizens communicates the exemplary progress of the past fiscal year. Many accomplishments and continued progress have been put in place to help our great Pokagon nation grow economically with the goal of sustainability for future Pokagon generations.



In May of 2016, Tribal Council approved policy changes to the elders stipend. The elders stipend policy change implemented a tiered payment structure, which increases each five years by \$250 starting at age 65. This is just one example where the Finance Board and Tribal Council

work seamlessly to provide a financial solution to our repositories of rich Pokagon culture: our elders.

Diversifying and growing while protecting the assets of our Minors Trust is something that the Finance Board takes very seriously. The Pokagon Band's investment objective for our Minors Trust is growth and income. The Finance Board added investment partners to manage a portion of our Minors Trust. All investment partners are expected to meet or preferably exceed the benchmark net of expenses.

These accomplishments could not have happened without the help of the Finance Board and staff from our finance team, whose team members always stand ready to help our citizens.

I am pleased to report that the Pokagon Band continues to enjoy a strong financial position, as reflected in the enclosed financial statements, the auditors report, and the report on investments. We ended the fiscal year exceeding a very challenging budget, and this has been recognized by our audit firm RSM. I would like to acknowledge the department leaders:

IT Jody Osbon, Social Services Mark Pompey, Housing Jim Coleman, Natural Resources Jennifer Kanine, Tribal Police Bill Lux, General Counsel Ed Williams, Communications Paige Risser, Education Sam Morseau, Health Matt Clay, Human Resources Jessica Christner, Gaming Commission Bruce Molnar, Tribal Court Steve Rambeaux, and a special thanks to our Finance Director Anita Grivins, our Government Manager Jason M. Wesaw, our Assistant Government Manager Rebecca Richards, Executive Assistant Melissa Rodriguez and Frederick Lamble, our financial advisor.

Motivated by our responsibilities to manage efficiently and effectively, the Treasury completed a five year capital strategy plan that will address the capital needs to support future tribal government services. To meet the goals of the tribal financial strategies, the Finance Board collaborates with the finance team and the Government Manager and the Assistant Government Manager on a bi-weekly basis to review the tribe's financial health.

On a personal note, Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI) appointed your Treasurer to serve as a member of the U.S. Department of Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC). TTAC, established under the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014, will advise the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury on tribal taxation issues in Indian Country and help establish training and education programs for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) field agents who work with tribal governments.

Before closing I would like to thank the Finance Board members Robert Moody, Jr., Steve Winchester, Roger Rader and Matt Wesaw who have each in their own way with their different perspectives helped me with their advice to stay focused on the long term financial sustainability of the tribe and were instrumental in realizing the favorable financial results the tribe achieved in 2016.

Chi-Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Magnuson'.

Eugene Magnuson, Treasurer



Looking back, 2016 has been a productive time for our Elders Council. We hope that we have made your lives a little more enjoyable with the events we planned for you. We tried to listen to all of your input and serve you so that you had an active part in your Council. We have many programs in place to try to make life a little easier.

The elders membership is growing, and it is great to see all the new faces. At last count we are 550 plus strong. Our monthly business meeting has increased to nearly one hundred elders per month. If you are an elder, please join us on the first Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m. We would love to meet you and have your input!

Every month we have a diverse list of activities to pique everyone's interest. We have socials that include crafts, movies, bingo, auctions, a chili cook off and much more. We have socials to celebrate Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. We also have great special lunches including our summer picnic, Christmas dinner and we don't want to forget our trips to Four Winds for lunch and a little social entertainment.

We encourage elder involvement in education by attending three Michigan Indian Elders Association conferences per year. This year we went to Hannahville and LacVieux Desert. For the third conference, we hosted a successful conference at our very own Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo. If you are a Pokagon elder and have attended four consecutive business meetings, you may qualify to attend the next MIEA conference by adding your name to the signup sheet at our business meetings.

The Pokagon Education Department works to keep elders up to date on the latest technology by providing Kindles and training on how to use them. If you haven't received one yet, please contact Don Sumners in the Education Department. If you need any help with an electronic device, you can also contact Don for information on the next class.

We have many other programs like the emergency fund, snow removal, donation fund, Medicare part B reimbursement, pow wow raffles, donations for veterans, and our annual calendar. If you would like to introduce yourself, talk to Beth Warner who handles the Elder of the Month program. An elder can receive \$75 for writing about him or herself once the profile is published in the Pokagon newspaper. We also have a program where the elders match MIEA Scholarship Awards for our Pokagon students. You can contact the Elders Council for more information.

We try to incorporate Native American culture on our trips. This year we visited the Eastern states and the Plimoth (Native American) Plantation, the Potawatomi Gathering/Trail of Death in Oklahoma, and Disneyland and the Seminole Indians in Florida.

We hope that we have touched your interest enough to see you at the next business meeting, so we can hear your comments and ideas. If you can't make it to a meeting, please watch us on the Pokagon website or feel free to reach out to any one of your Council members. Remember we need to hear from you so we can plan for the upcoming year. For those of you who do attend, thank you so much for all your ideas and input.





Michael Petosky  
CHIEF JUDGE



David M. Peterson  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE



Jill E. Tompkins  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE



Robert T. Anderson  
CHIEF JUSTICE



Matthew L. M. Fletcher  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

## TRIBAL JUDICIARY

The Judiciary is an independent branch of government established by the Constitution of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. The Tribal Court system consist of two levels: the trial level (Tribal Court) and the appellate level (Court of Appeals).

### The Tribal Court Judges

Chief Judge Michael Petoskey (Grand Traverse Band) is a Michigan attorney with over 30 years experience developing and implementing tribal courts in Michigan. Associate Judge David M. Peterson is a retired 5th District Court Judge for Berrien County, Michigan and practicing Michigan attorney.

### The Court of Appeals Justices

Chief Justice Robert T. Anderson (Bois Forte Band) is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington School of Law, and also the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. Associate Justice Jill E. Tompkins (Penobscot) is the Director of the Penobscot Nation Judicial System. Associate Justice Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band) is a Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Michigan State University College of Law.

### Annual Joint Meeting of Tribal Council and the Judiciary

Each year Tribal Council and the Judiciary, as separate branches of Tribal government, meet face-to-face to collaborate in order to ensure that the needs of the Band, as a sovereign nation, and its citizens are met. Each updates the other on its accomplishments over the preceding year and shares information about its work in progress, needs and future plans. It has been an exemplary best governmental practice and tradition.

### Court Staff

The Court has three (3) full-time staff. Court staff are supervised and provided guidance by Chief Judge Michael Petoskey. The Chief Judge and Court staff work as a team in order to develop the infrastructure needed for the Court and complete the every-day case work.

Court Administrator Stephen Rambeaux

Court Clerk Stacey Gettig

Court Clerk Donna Walls

### Overview of the Work of the Court

The work of the Court involves: (1) meeting the needs of the Tribal government because it is a federally-recognized sovereign nation; and (2) providing an independent, fair forum for resolving disputes, conflicts and adherence to Tribal standards. Some of the duties and responsibilities are mandated by the Tribal Constitution. Other duties are the results of laws passed by Tribal Council. Yet other duties are the product of court rules, administrative orders and the inherent authority of the Judiciary as a



branch of government. The Court meets these responsibilities by: (1) establishing general rules of practice and procedure before the courts; (2) collaborative governmental development for the implementation of the laws of the Band, Court Rules and Administrative Orders; and (3) the judicial processing of actual cases transferred or filed in the courts.

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Constitution mandates that the Court of Appeals establish and amend general rules for practice, procedure and evidence in the Tribal Court and Court of Appeals. Court rules provide standard process and procedures: (1) for the practice before the Tribal courts; and (2) the judicial processing of cases.

1. Court Rules and Administrative Orders

The Court Rules and Administrative Orders of the Tribal Courts can be can be obtained from the Pokagon Band's Tribal Court webpage at <http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/tribal-court> and from the Court upon request.

2. Collaborative Development and Development of Infrastructure for the Court

a. Collaborative Development

The Chief Judge, Associate Judge, and Court staff collaborate with Tribal Council, the Office of General Counsel, the Prosecuting Attorney, Tribal Police and departments to develop the processes and procedures needed within the Court to build good working systems. The Tribal Court will continue to collaborate in all projects and with all departments in any way needed to further the development of the Pokagon Band community.

b. Development of Infrastructure for the Court

The Chief Judge and Court staff has developed necessary court forms and response letters to assist individuals and entities to function properly within the procedures outlined in the Pokagon Band Tribal Court Rules and laws of the Band. The Chief Judge and Court staff devote a significant amount of time toward the development. The forms have been adapted for use as automated documents by the Court's case management system to save limited resources and staff time. The Court has also developed forms for use by citizens, the general public and attorneys, which creates efficiencies for the Court by obtaining the proper information when a case is filed and after filing, if needed. Forms can be obtained at the Tribal Courthouse and at the Pokagon Band's Tribal Court webpage at [www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/tribal-court](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/tribal-court).

3. Particular Focus of the Judiciary

- Develop the judicial capacity to conduct hearings and Court operations on Tribal land in Indiana; and
- Continue the Native Justice Initiative journey along three (3) separate strands:
  - To develop culturally appropriate judicial tools for use by the Court;
  - To develop a community conflict and resolution forum; and
  - To continue raising community awareness and provide on-going Native Justice Initiative educational opportunities
- Past Accomplishments
  - Skills training of volunteers to be Circle Keepers
    - 40 hours training in mediation
    - 10 hours observation of mediation in State of Michigan Courts
    - Some volunteers are certified State of Michigan mediators and can conduct mediation in Michigan courts
  - Native American Rights Fund (NARF) annual peacemaking training onsite at the Pokagon Band

- Future Activities
  - Continued skill training for volunteers
  - 2017 training by NARF
  - Monthly training sessions conducted by the Southeastern Mediation Center
  - Continued collaboration with the Citizens Mediation Center in Benton Harbor to provide observation hours for volunteers

If you would like to become involved in the Native Justice Initiative, please contact Stacey Gettig at (269) 783-0505.

#### 4. Judicial Processing of Cases

The Pokagon Band Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction. Tribal Court continues to develop with the growth in the community. The Judiciary and court personnel are committed to providing a court system that reflects the values, culture and spirit of Pokagon Band tribal community. The following graphs help to illustrate case work by the Tribal Courts.

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF CASES FILED 2004 – 2016

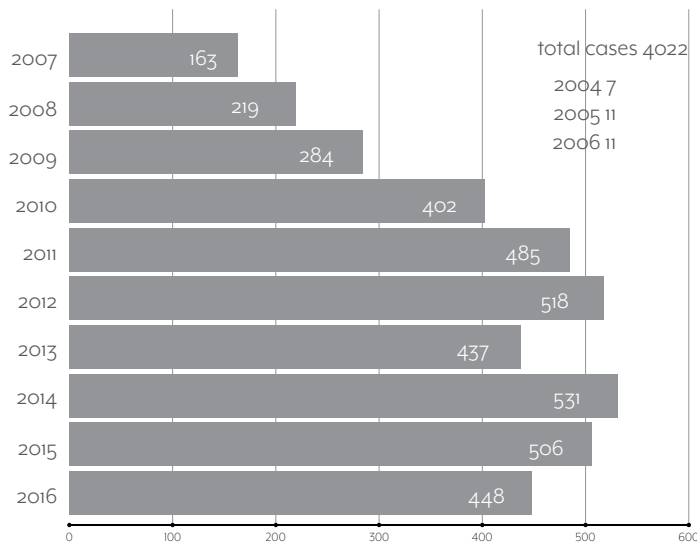
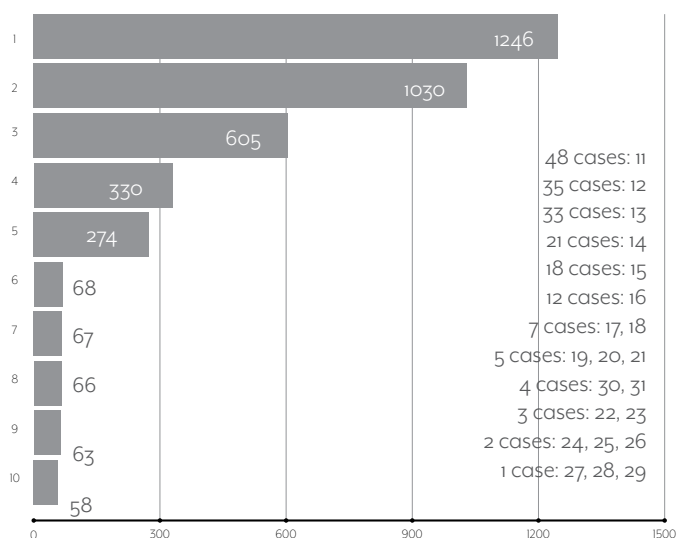


FIGURE 2: TYPES OF CASES FILED IN 2004 – 2016



11. General Civil
12. Child Protection
13. Bankruptcy Deduction
14. Adoption
15. Garnishment of Per Capita Distribution for Debt to Tribe
16. Guardianship - Minor
17. Federal Administrative Agency Garnishment
18. Garnishment of Per Capita Distribution for Debt to Chi Ishobok
19. Landlord Tenant
20. Garnishment of Per Capita Distribution for IRS Levy
21. Enrollment
22. Small Claims
23. Election
24. Administrative Appeal
25. Exclusion
26. Hunting and Gathering Civil Infraction
27. Divorce with Minor Children
28. Guardianship - Adult
29. Juvenile Guardianship
30. Court of Appeals
31. Marriage

FIGURE 3: COMPARISON OF CASES FILED AND LOCATION

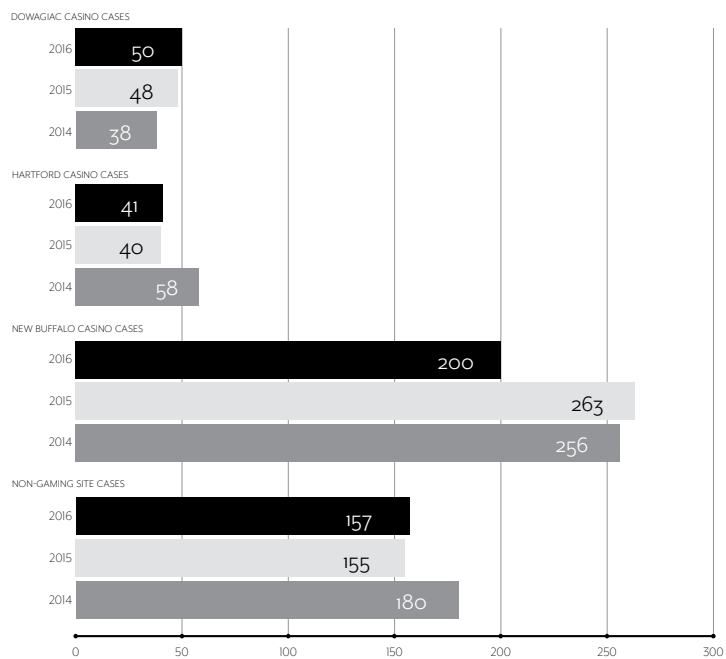
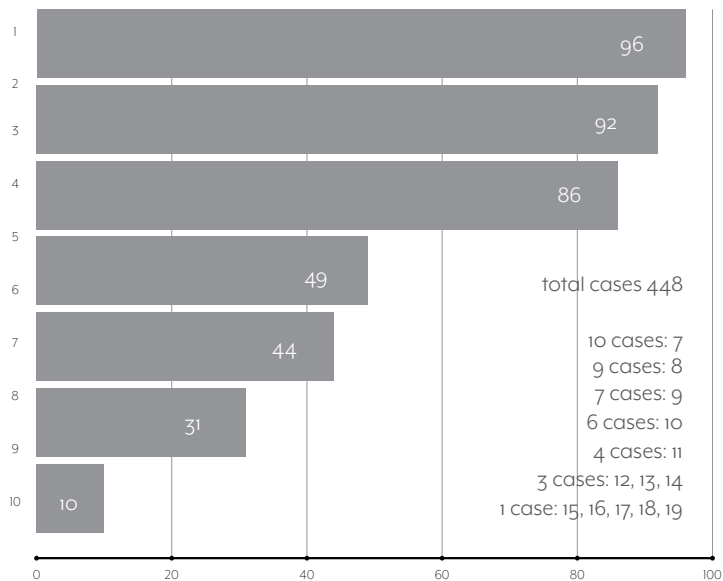


FIGURE 4: TYPES OF CASES FILED 2016



1. Per Capita Distribution for Delinquent Child Support
2. Child Support Recognition
3. Civil Infraction
4. Civil Infraction Traffic
5. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Judgment
6. Foreign Judgment
7. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Subpoena
8. Guardianship - Minor
9. Garnishment of Per Capita Distribution for Debt to Chi Ishobak
10. Criminal Offense
11. Garnishment of Per Capita Distribution for Debt to Tribe
12. Student Loan Garnishment
13. General Civil
14. Adoption
15. Garnishment by Federal Agency
16. Landlord Tenant
17. Garnishment of Per Capita for IRS Levy
18. Divorce with Children
19. Child Protection

FIGURE 5: MONTHLY NEW CASE FILINGS

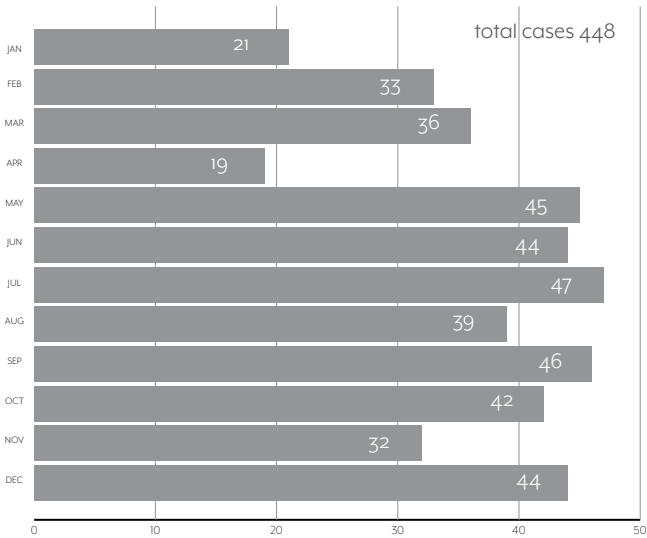
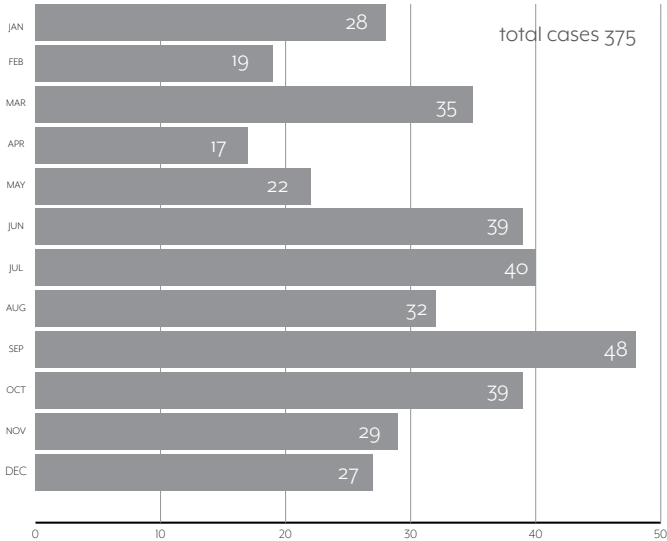


FIGURE 6: NUMBER OF HEARINGS AND TRIALS SCHEDULED MONTHLY





## Sense of place: édaygo home

The St. Joseph River. Carey Mission. Sumnerville Mounds. Moccasin Bluff. Bozeville. Silver Creek Township. Rush Lake. Pokagon's village. Zenba Odanek (or as it's better known, South Bend). Lake Michigan.

Each of these—and too many others to list—mark a spot on a map that holds significance to the Pokagon people. But their importance weighs more than a mere name. The people who passed through, the events that happened, the sense of community a place creates fix a spot in the mind, but also in the heart.

As we look back on 2016—a year marked by the reestablishment of Potawatomi homeland in Indiana after its absence for two hundred years—we tell the story of the Pokagon people, and the many ways home can be established and expressed.

## Dental services keeps the care on Pokagon land

In 2016, PHS's Dental Office tended to 5,260 patient appointments, up from 4,309 in 2015. Because of that demand, a third dentist joined the team to accommodate the growing need for treatment.

Another 2016 accomplishment: a CEREC machine. This machine will reduce patient wait time for most crown preparations. Before, a patient came in for a sixty to ninety minute crown prep. Once the prep was completed, that patient left with a temporary crown that he or she wore for at least two weeks. Then the patient would have to return for a thirty minute appointment to have the permanent crown placed.

While waiting for the permanent crown, the temporary could have broken or come off. Then the patient has to come back into the office to get a new temporary made to protect the tooth. With the CEREC, these situations can be limited. In about three hours, a patient will be prepped for the crown, have a digital picture of the prepped area taken, and

the crown will be created on site and placed. This one visit will mean the patient won't have to make multiple visits to the office.

Robert Kronewitter is one patient who appreciates their work.

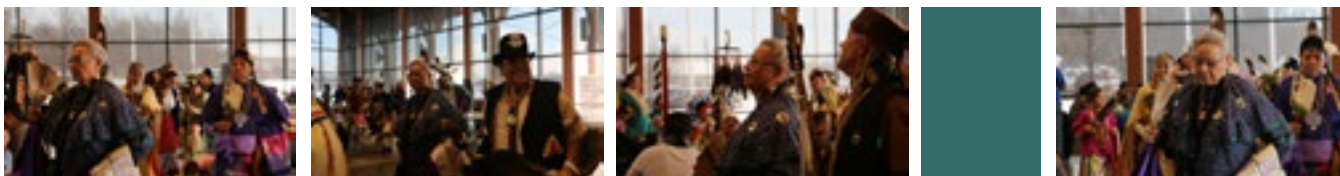
"I'd recommend it to any Pokagons who need their teeth done. We don't need to outsource that anymore, it happens right there," he said. "Every time I've been there the staff's been great. They make sure you're comfortable; they're on their job. You don't go in there thinking, 'Oh I have to get my teeth worked on...'"

Robert was one of the first patients to experience the new CEREC machine.

"I got two front teeth crowns," he said. "I just was sitting back watching them go, finished in three hours without having to go back and forth.

"It did improve my smile; now my wife loves my teeth."

## Home is where I'm cared for.



Majel DeMarsh has always taken good care of herself, and others. "I saw it as you take care of your family, your clan and your nation," she said.

But 2016 was a difficult year. She had issues with diabetes, anxiety, and what felt like depression.

"I said, 'This is not me. How can I get back to being me again?' I'm so thankful for Dr. Morris, one of the best doctors I've ever had," she recalls. "I reached out to Behavioral Health, and it was the best thing I had done."

Through PHS's Circuit Healing program—a combination of talk therapy, acupuncture and massage therapy, counselors helped Majel get to that good place again.

"I started going to our traditional healer, getting teas and medicines through him, bringing my body way back to where it should be. I added tai chi practice, and it helped me really slow down. I didn't know what slowing down was!

"The closer I get to our traditional mno bmadzewin, the better. I love listening to nature. Five minutes out of my driveway and I'm at Rodgers Lake or Gage Lake. Once I'm by the water, I feel what Creator has given us. I open my eyes and ears to what's out there.

"I'm so thankful for Behavioral Health. Creator had these things for me, I just needed to realize them so I could be that good helper to my family, clan, and nation."



## Joe Morsaw loses his vision and leg, but not mobility

Joe Morsaw remembers gathering in what is now Elders Hall, adding his name to the 1,500 signatures needed for federal recognition. The tribe had little, and Joe couldn't imagine they'd be taking care of him and his family as they are now.

"I never thought I'd see this when I saw those 1,500 members," Joe said, looking up into the high ceiling of the Pokagon Health Center.

Joe frequents Optical, the Clinic, and admits he should visit dental soon, but with each appointment, he calls upon the PHS division with staff members he now calls friends—Transportation.

"I've been using Transportation since it's been offered," Joe said, naming past and current drivers.

Pain killers that Joe's been prescribed for years made him uncomfortable behind the wheel, sometimes causing drowsiness. That's when he started calling Transportation. Then six months ago, Joe noticed a small cut on his toe. A couple days later, the skin around it appeared discolored. Within ten days, the skin turned black. Rather than risking further infection and surgeries, Joe opted for amputation of everything below his knee.

Even before this debilitating surgery, Joe suffered a stroke and no longer has right peripheral vision in either eye. Driving was no longer an option.

"Without Transportation, I don't know what I'd do," Joe said. "It's the natives helping the natives. It makes me feel good that the tribe is taking care of me."



## Elders exercise class builds strength and relationships

Pounding drums echo through the Wellness Center hallway at least three times a week. These drums aren't constructed of wood and rawhide, rather from exercise balls and plastic buckets for our elders to drum out their cares, getting active and feeling energized.

Ollie and Pat Shaer travel from Pokégnek Édawat to the Health Center most Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays for drumming—they have been since the summer of 2016—for the exercise and the opportunity to socialize with other elders. Pat is recovering from a recent knee surgery, and the class has helped her build back her strength.

"I'm more aware of what I'm doing," Pat said. "When you get to be an old person, it's important you keep yourself up, and I hadn't been—but we are now."

"Lying around the house, doing nothing—it was killing me," Ollie said. "I'm glad to get back to the exercise, get some movement in my body. It's a good thing."

Tia Parker leads the class, and her mom Karen Councilman attends regularly to support her daughter and to improve her own health. Karen's sugar levels have decreased since she started exercising with the class, and she feels stronger.



"I really enjoy being with the tribal members," Karen said. "It's a great exercise."

It not only exercises the body, but also the mind, Karen and Ollie agree, to keep up with the beat and follow the choreography. These elders move to the same tempo, improving their health and relationships all in a single drum beat.



# Home is where my culture flourishes: I belong



## Cultural teachings create Pokagon pride for youth

Pokagon Band youth cultural programming ensures that the next generation, and generations to come, have opportunities to better understand and live their traditions; traditions—rooted in this homeland—that were almost lost.

From the after school program to summer camp to Junior and Senior Youth Councils, middle and high schoolers can receive teachings, make new friends, and enjoy being with other Pokagon kids.

“It is always a privilege to see youth make strides to succeed in life and take advantage of the opportunities this tribe provides to them,” said Daniel Stohrer, youth coordinator.

Michael Mathews is one teen who has benefited from these programs.

“He goes consistently, and gets a lot of one-on-one with Dan,” said his aunt, Jessica Swisher. “It’s brought him out of his shell. In the beginning he didn’t want to go, but now he loves it.”

According to Stohrer, Michael’s smile and his willingness to learn and be as involved as he possibly can stand out.

“I believe he keeps his smile because he is truly passionate about his Potawatomi heritage, and wants to learn as much as he can by involving himself in programs/activities the Language and Culture Department offers.”

# where my culture thrives.

## Cultural involvement leads to family understanding

Erin Burgraff-Topash wasn’t always so involved with the Pokagon community. She grew up just out-of-the-know enough to only occasionally be able to attend pow wows or gatherings. When she recently left the working world to raise her children full-time, she also committed to learning her Native heritage.

Erin dove in this year, starting by creating regalia for herself and children in Regalia 101. She learned more than how to sew, as community members who knew Erin’s great grandmother, Agnes, began sharing stories about her, revealing that Agnes was considered one of the best seamstresses around.

The parenting bundle event offered Erin traditional parenting techniques she says apply very much to today. Stories, medicines, and focusing on your child’s gifts were a few areas she gained knowledge in and added to her bundle. When she created a cradleboard and later a moss bag, Erin learned about the practical uses for the carrier as well as the parenting techniques that accompany it, such as teaching a child to be still and sooth him or herself.

Erin harvested with our traditional harvesters; she travelled with a group to the Mt. Pleasant boarding school, where a great aunt attended.



# Home is where I learn. where I strengthen my skills.

## Youth programs keep kids learning

Erin Glover is one busy 5th grader.

She attended Dreamcatchers Culture Camp in the summer.

"It was interesting," she said. "I learned you could make medicines of the things around you. I tried a cattail; it was a little bittersweet. We went to the long house every morning for, like, a ceremony. I want to go back because it was a lot of fun and I made new friends."

She also enjoyed STEM Camp, a day camp organized by the Department of Education.

"We made a rocket out of a bottle, and made cars powered by balloons."

It inspired her to make a volcano out of a soda can someday.

She takes advantage of the Enrichment Program for the piano lessons she's been taking for three years, and for the flute she just bought for the 5th grade band at Woodside Elementary school in Hartford.

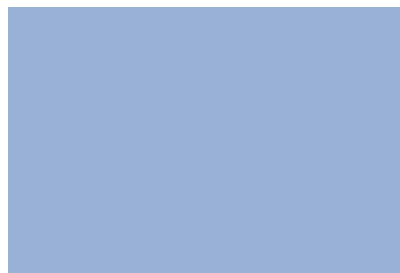
"I always wanted to play flute. We will have a concert in May."

The Education Department's Discovery Kits kept her occupied.

"I liked the pink tracing box, LEGO®s, the potato science kit, the fossil rocks science kit bug box."

Next up: learning to bead earrings.

"I just got my ears pierced. Maybe I can have a booth at the pow wow and sell them, and the crochet things I make."





## **Apprenticeship Program graduate seeks out WIOA to begin career**

Gordon Schultz was working a factory job just six years ago, underpaid and feeling like work was nothing more than a chore. He enrolled in automotive school to start a career for himself, but the fit wasn't right. Then he discovered Pokagon's Apprenticeship Program and has since graduated and earned his journeyman title.

The Apprenticeship Program fit his needs and aspirations. He felt motivated by his fellow classmates and saw he was working toward a career through it, not just paychecks.

"It's a lot more friendly setting," Gordon said of the Apprenticeship Program classes. "You're more comfortable. If you know the people in the program, you feel more at home."

As a journeyman, Gordon can prove his knowledge and skills to new employers and earn an income enough to support his family of four. To work those construction jobs post-graduation, Gordon needed supplies like work boots, a warm jacket, and bibs. For these, he turned to another Pokagon program that he calls a "hidden treasure": the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Pokagon offers WIOA through our Human Resources Department, where citizens like Gordon can receive job-readiness training and supplies, even gas reimbursement. Gordon goes to the tribe first for services when he needs them because here, he's more than a book or a number.

"They've been there to help assist me," Gordon said. "Without them, it would have been a lot more difficult. When I've needed them, they've been there for me."

Gordon aspires to build his family a home and start a contracting company, as he is currently studying to take the exam that would award him his contractor's license.

"It's just one step in the goals that I have set up."



### **Lifelong learning, starting in high school**

Madison Cabrillas is taking advantage of several opportunities the Pokagon Band offers high schoolers. She's dual enrolled in Dowagiac High School and Southwestern Michigan College. And one of the courses she's taking at SMC is a Potawatomi language class.

Dual enrollment allows high school students to attend college classes to get a leg up on earning college credit and save some tuition money. The Band pays up to \$400 a semester for Madison's SMC tuition and books.

"I felt like I was ready for the next step," she said of taking college courses. "I really like it. It's more comfortable, on my level; I've made a lot of friends."

She's taking a 2D art class and Potawatomi.

"It's a really good experience," she said of the language course. "I find myself using a lot of the language in my daily life. It's well-taught, which makes it easy to grasp."

Madison has taken two semesters of Potawatomi, which is all that's offered at the college.

"I'd like to continue studying language after this."



## **Tribal Leadership Program graduates investing in the tribe's future**

The Pokagon Band may not be part of Kateri Dayson or her husband's diverse ancestry, but she and her family of seven calls this community home. They work here, fellowship here, and are investing in the tribe's future.

Kateri completed the Tribal Leadership Program in 2016, taking classes while completing her bachelor's degree at Southwestern Michigan College and Ferris State University. She wanted to strengthen her educational background and gain insight into what the tribe is looking for in future leaders because she plans to be one.

Kateri grew up on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in Mayetta, Kansas, working for the tribe in high school before heading north for college and trying out corporate America, which she quickly discovered was not what she wanted.

"I like to make a difference," Kateri said, "so it's nice to make a difference for people I believe in."

She returned to tribal work when Pokagon was functioning out of trailers, watched it build and grow. That's partially why she chose to stay and make this place, this people her home.

"I feel like a transplant," she says. "I feel more comfortable in this community."

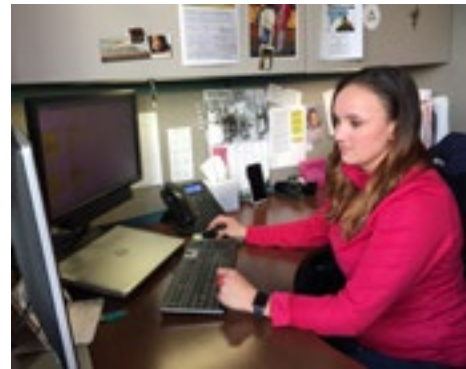
Kateri felt isolated when she first moved to Michigan, without any family near. She purposely connected with other native women, and created a family with those she now calls "adopted," in a place she now calls home.

Rhonda Purcell also graduated from the program, and she sees this opportunity as parallel to village life, in which the youth were taught and put in positions to prepare them to be leaders.

"I feel like [the tribe] invested in me," Rhonda said.

The Potawatomi history course showed her how far our people have come, and the grant writing class revealed how far we can go if we take advantage of funds set aside for communities like ours.

"I don't think I could find a more fulfilling way to live this life I've been given if I wasn't giving back to my community."



# Home is where my community lifts each other up.

## Well and Septic Program helps create home

Jo Silvia and her husband, Joe, were on their way to constructing the home of their dreams. Joe had carefully budgeted the costs—including a 10% contingency—knowing how “there’s always something that is going to come up” in building projects.

That something indeed came up, in the form of 12 inches of rain during 12 hours in October.

“And we had 22 inches of it in our basement,” Jo recalls.

Ruined in that basement: a brand new furnace, tools, all of their plumbing supplies.

“We tried to save as much as we could, washing the mud off,” said Jo.

The Silvias had applied for assistance from the Housing and Community Development Department’s Well and Septic Program. They had known that the program, to which income restrictions don’t apply, would save them a significant amount, allowing them to make choices on the home that they might not have made. They didn’t count on it covering the cost of a flood disaster.

“I used that money to buy the new furnace, the new egress, and the drain system. We were able to do that because we had that help,” Joe said.

Outside of the flood headache, the program process went smoothly.

“Working with Megan (Rick, the housing specialist) was great,” said Joe. “All the contractors said how easy it was to work with her. I appreciated all that was done to make sure the homeowner, the environment, and the system were protected and that the contractor’s work was acceptable. It’s a good program for people who have an old system and need it replaced.”





## Standing in solidarity at Ocheti Sakowin

"I wanted to go to represent my family. I wanted to take a stand for my nieces and nephews. I wanted to be their voice to help protect our water.

"To be honest, at first, I felt scared. I didn't want to die in the freezing temperatures; I didn't want to go to the frontline and possibly end up in jail. I knew it was going to be a journey that would test me physically, mentally, and emotionally.

"On the day we arrived, all that fear suddenly left me when I saw hundreds of teepees, tents and flags from all the Indigenous nations across the country. I was excited to see thousands of people camping along the Cannonball River—if they could survive, so could I!"

—Michelle Thompson



"The gift we received at Standing Rock was the regeneration of the tribal quest.

"We are no longer handcuffed by the blood memory of tyranny but have been strengthened by the unity of all nations who came armed with the dreams and prophecies of their families, relatives, and ancestors.

"As we made our way to Ocheti Sakowin, a new sense of place emerged within us.

"Our connections to each other, as well as our environment, continue to nourish our spiritual growth.

"Our bonds strengthened our resolve. We enacted the traditions of old to guide the decisions of the day.

"Side by side we stood listening, learning, and acting. Each member contributed to the betterment of the whole."

—Sam Morseau

# Home is where I have a roof over my head.

## Gatties families discover homeownership, new beginning on tribal land

Robert and Sandy Gatties have never owned a home, always rented houses or apartments during their 43 years of marriage. The Dowagiac Pokégnek Édawat village's lease-to-own program offered them the new opportunity to own their first home, and they're taking it.

"It's a nice house," Robert beamed. "Of course, we probably wouldn't have been able to buy a house if it wasn't for the tribe."

The couple neighbors Sandy's mother, two aunts, a cousin, and their son Jason and his wife Priscilla. Sandy says living close to family enables her to spend much more time with them. Sandy also cares for her mother who experiences health problems.

"I appreciate the blessing of being able to live out here," Sandy said.

Living on tribal land impacted Jason and Priscilla's life in more ways than expanding their living situation from one and a half bedrooms to five. Moving into the lease-to-own home that they now own started a domino effect in their personal and professional lives.

"I pinpoint it as a moment where a lot of things changed for us," Jason said.

Prior to their move to Édawat, the couple lived in an apartment in St. Joseph, working jobs based on proximity and familiarity.

Their credit score was barely high enough to enter the lease-to-own program, but with encouragement from the Housing Department, a few Dave Ramsey videos, and several paid-off credit card bills, Jason and Priscilla increased their credit scores by nearly 200 points while they leased their home. In February 2017, they finalized their mortgage and finally own the home they love.

Jason has attended every pow wow, every Sovereignty Day celebration since living here. He worked for the tribe—his life-long dream—for what he calls the best nine months of his adult-working life.

Jason didn't understand his heritage as a child, living far from his community; he didn't know what to say when asked about his background. His daughter Sinoia is now experiencing the culture he couldn't, and she answers the question of background with pride.



### **ADA unit in Hartford offers father and son a safe haven**

Jordan Lang lives with his son in the new Hartford Pokégnek Édawat village. During the day, Jordan and Bentley play in their wide open ADA duplex unit, Bentley banging on his toddler-sized drum set, but always with his feeding tube following behind on a miniature IV stand. Many days, these two pack up Bentley's feeding apparatus into a cartoon backpack Jordan transformed into an on-the-go feeding carrier.

Bentley's condition is a mystery to doctors, despite travelling up and down the Midwest for tests and constant research by Jordan. All they know now are to treat the symptoms: Bentley was throwing up constantly, and the feeding tube drops the frequency to between 4–5 times, daily.

Their new home is minutes away from Four Winds Casino Hartford, where Jordan works nights. Their home allows Bentley to run through every room with the stand, thanks to its openness and hard floors. The home also has a generator, so Jordan does not have to worry about Bentley's feeding apparatus shutting down due to a power outage.

"It's like a safe haven back here," Jordan said.





## GIS technology improvements ensure safe, cost-effective tribal construction

Sovereignty and self-determination deepen a sense of place. The more the Pokagon Band has control over its land and its processes, the more the feeling of connection to it and investment in it grows. One significant way this sense has expanded: utility location services are accomplished in-house and have improved compared to years past. The GIS specialist in the Department of Housing and Community Development, Matthew Bussler, uses GPS/GIS, a mapping and asset management software, and utility locating instruments like the Radiodetection 7000 utility locator, to find and mark underground lines. This makes design and construction much easier on Band properties.

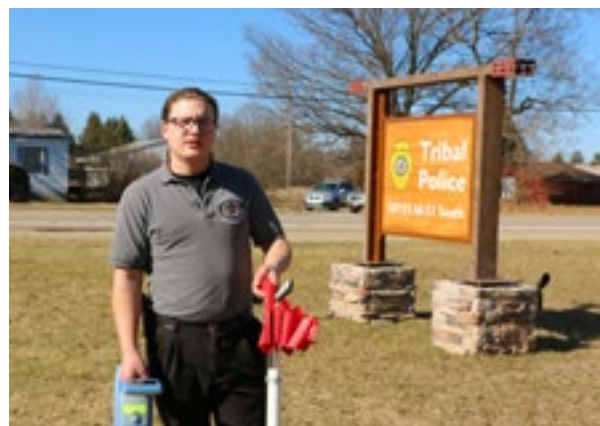
“GIS location of utilities on tribal properties has been a great benefit to us in the planning and design stages of new projects,” said Scott Winchester, architect with the Pokagon’s own 7Gen Architecture

and Engineering firm. “Since Matthew has been recording all of the utilities, we have had the benefit of knowing where and how deep the utilities are on our lands.”

Winchester says this information is helping establish an appropriate location for the new Peacemaking Center on the Rodgers Lake Campus and Elders Hall at Dowagiac Édawat.

“We installed a 4,500 foot gas main through the entire Rodgers Lake campground without striking a single line/structure,” said Matthew. “Without property utility location, we could have harmed tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of utilities.”

“The tribe saves money because of the shorter distances to connect to the utilities and the reduced possibility of interruption when they intersect,” added Scott.





# **Program and Service Statements + Statistics**



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FIGURE 7: CITIZENS SERVED | PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE

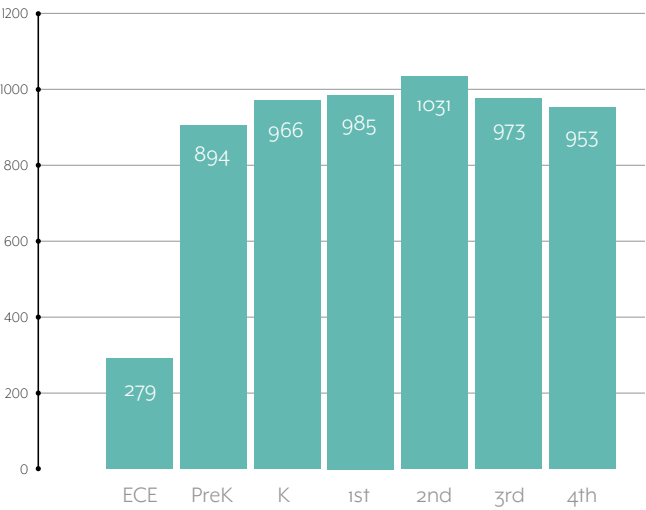


FIGURE 8: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION | EVENTS  
ACTUAL VS TARGET ATTENDANCE

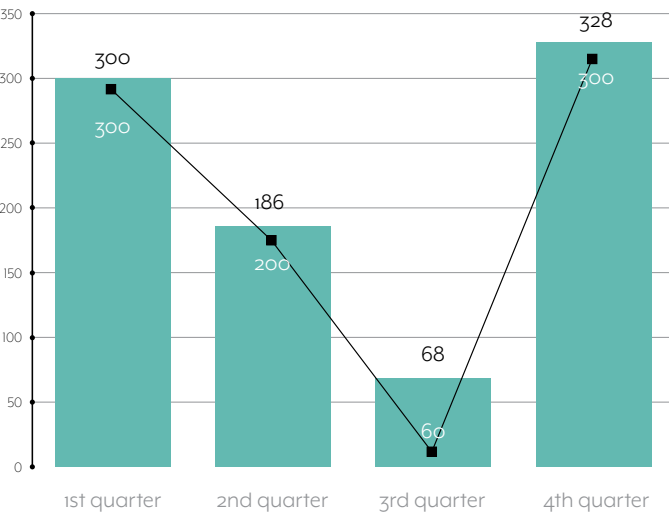


FIGURE 9: CITIZENS SERVED | 5TH GRADE THROUGH 12TH GRADE

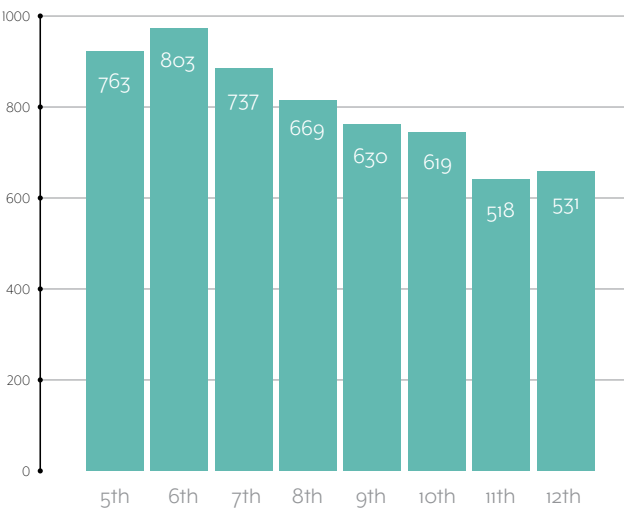


FIGURE 10: 5TH GRADE THROUGH 12TH GRADE | EVENTS  
ACTUAL VS TARGET ATTENDANCE

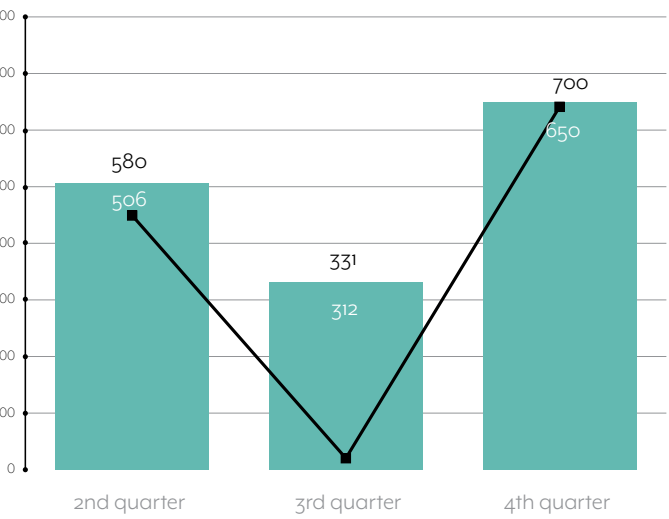


FIGURE 11: CITIZENS SERVED | HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

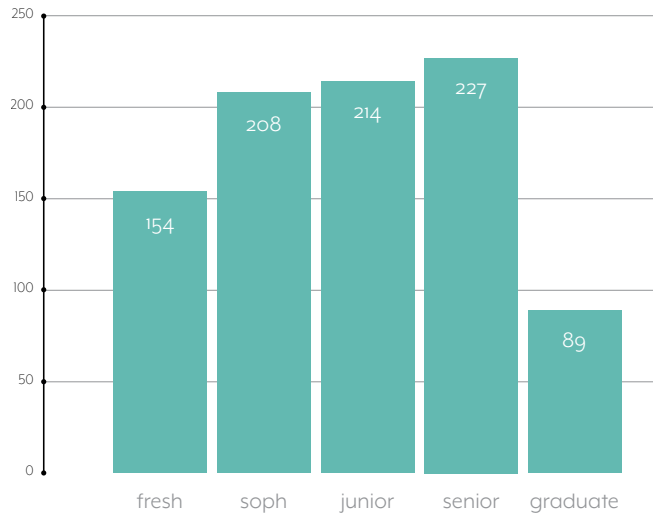


FIGURE 12: CITIZENS SERVED | BOOK STIPEND

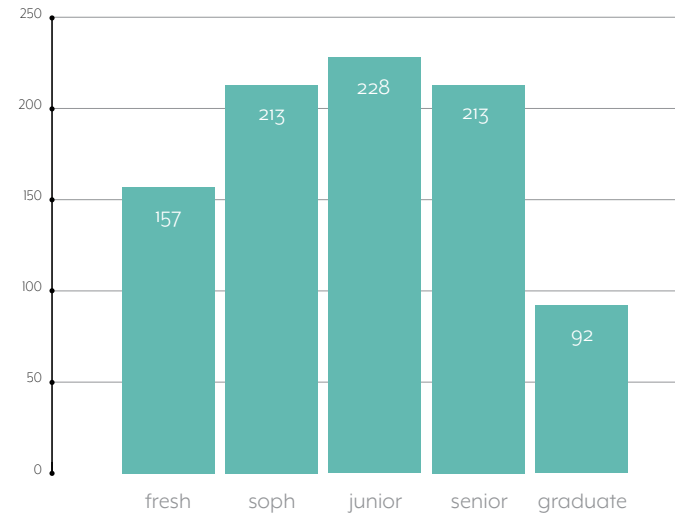


FIGURE 13: CITIZENS SERVED | TUTORING + EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATE SUPPORT

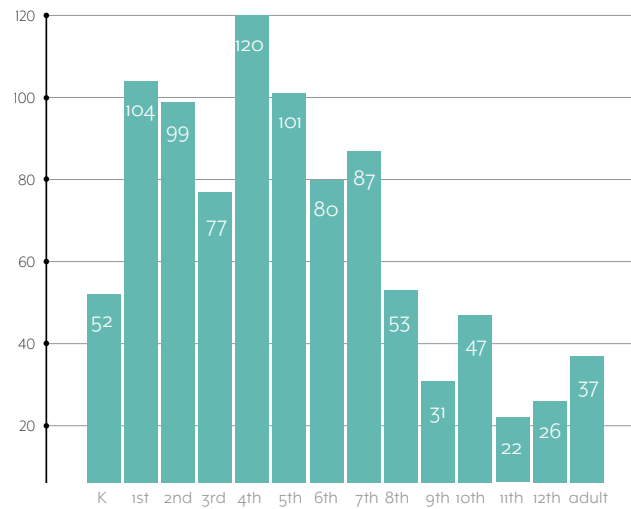


FIGURE 14: EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATE SUPPORT | EVENTS ACTUAL VS TARGET ATTENDANCE

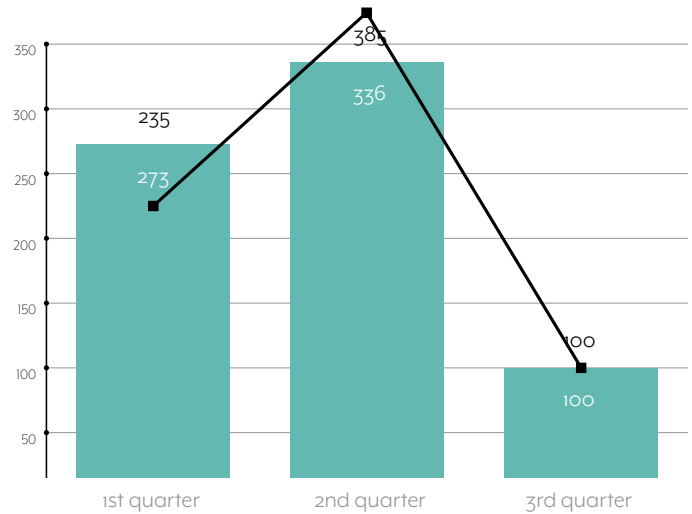
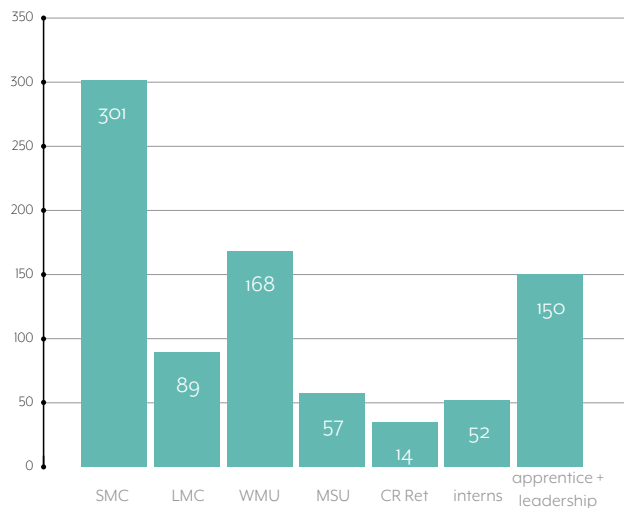
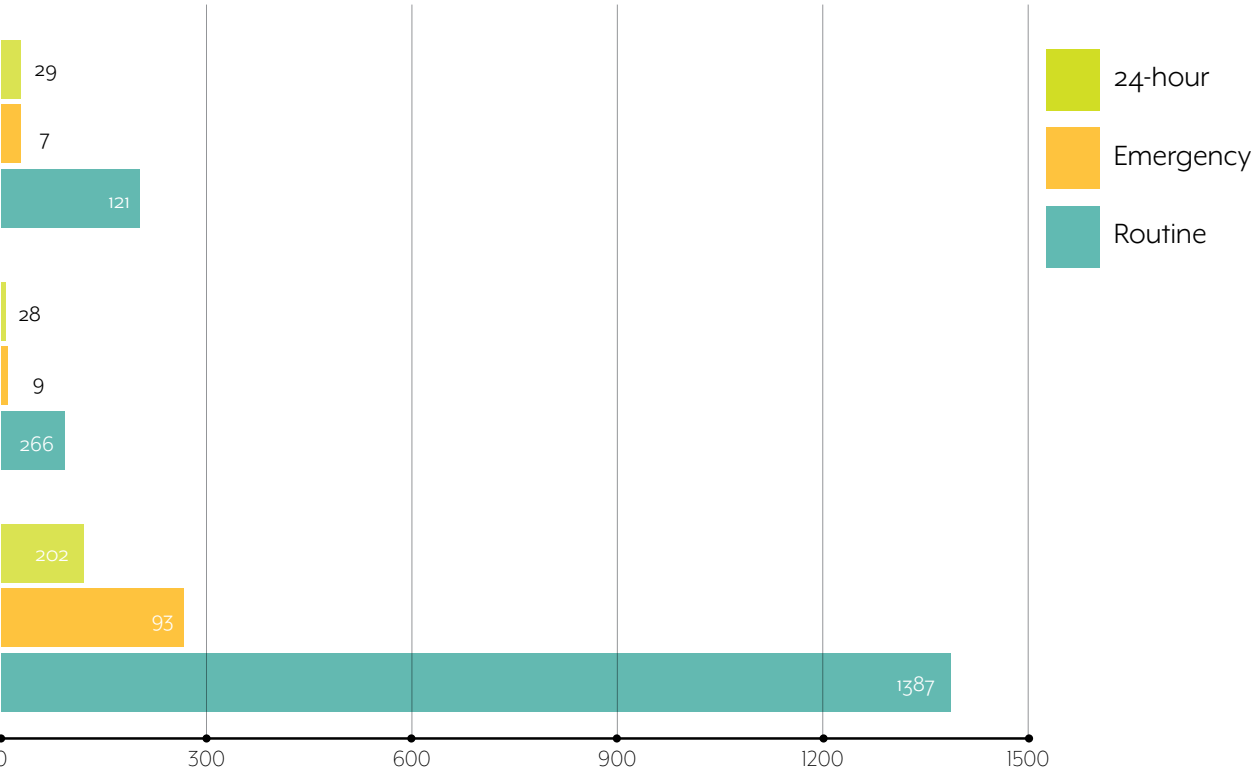


FIGURE 15: CITIZENS SERVED | COLLEGIATE PARTNERSHIPS



## DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES

FIGURE 16: 2016 WORK ORDERS



## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

FIGURE 17: EXPENDITURES BY SERVICE GROUP

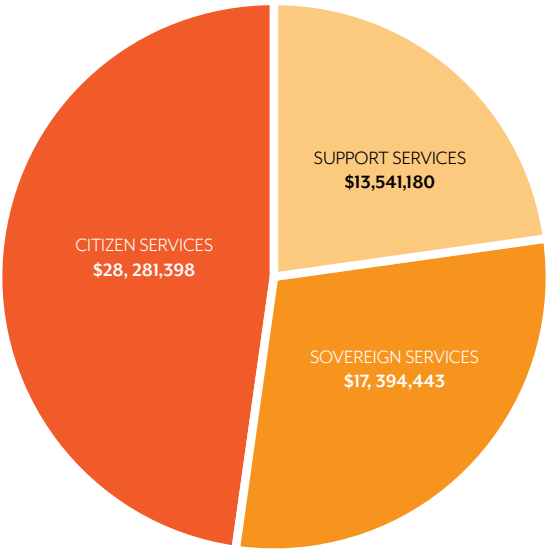


FIGURE 18: TOTAL VISITS 2016

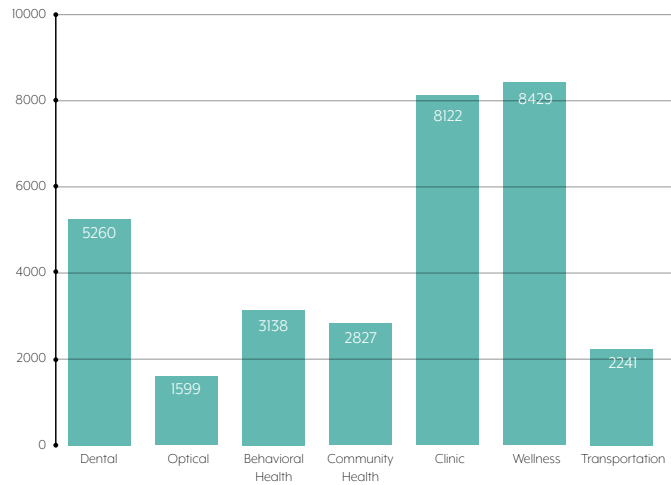


FIGURE 19: COST PLAN SAVINGS

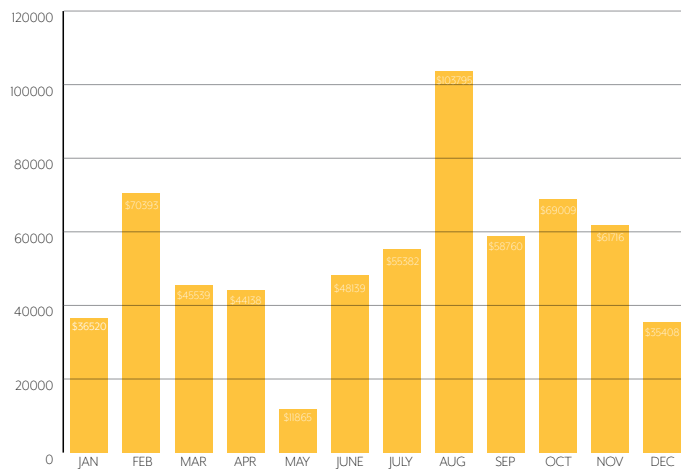
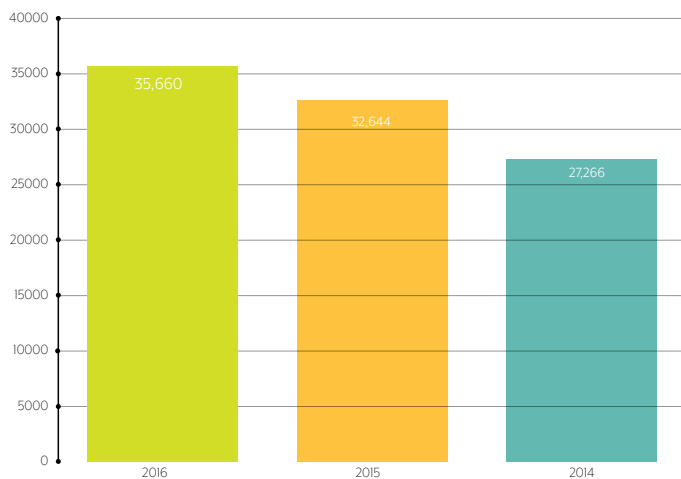


FIGURE 20: TOTAL PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED 2016



## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Managed Grant Funding exceeding **\$3 million**      Answered **7,479** telephone calls  
Completed Hartford Housing project      Received **875** rental payments  
Started South Bend Housing project      Had **1,931** visitors

### Housing helped

**90** citizens with rental assistance      **145** citizens with housing counseling each month  
**72** citizens with student rental assistance      **21** non-HUD eligible citizens with home owner  
**54** citizens with homeless prevention assistance      repair reimbursements

### Housing has

**3** housing villages      **3** housing units on Band properties      **82** elders on waiting lists for  
Dowagiac, Hartford, South Bend      **48** self-storage units in Dowagiac      housing, total all three villages  
(under construction)      **130** total rental units generating      **134** non-elders on waiting lists for  
**65** housing units Dowagiac Édawat      approximately \$400,000 in rental      housing, total all three villages  
**8** housing units Hartford Édawat      revenue to help offset operating costs  
**6** housing units South Bend Édawat

### Community Development has

**4,521** acres in Michigan      Band Infrastructure  
**1,846** acres in Indiana      **24,599** linear feet of gas lines  
Processed **348** work orders for the year,      **52,028** linear feet of electric lines  
between Building Official, GIS Technician,      **43,674** linear feet of water lines  
and Property Manager      **24,439** linear feet of sewer lines  
Performed **36** citizen home inspections      **12,200** linear feet of fiber optic cable  
Performed **181** total building inspections      **234.5** miles of roads which fall under BIA road program  
Non-Trust Land **3,172** acres  
Trust Land **3,196** acres

### Government Buildings

Managed budgets for **87** buildings including residential housing units  
Annual Operating Cost for various buildings  
Community Center **\$79,225**      Social Services Complex **\$40,442**  
Administration Building **\$230,801**      NAHASDA Buildings (Headstart, Police, DNR, Barns) **\$180,899**  
Satellite Offices **\$148,330**      Tribal Buses **\$5,965**

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

### WIOA Program

- **18** participants active in the WIOA program.
- Several student participants working on resume and job searching skills and preparing job readiness training, Tools for Success, includes working on resume, portfolio, and interviewing skills.

**259** current full-time and part-time employee count.

**52** new hires were employed in 2016.

### Apprenticeship Program

- **9** Apprentice graduates (year to date)
- **9** Current students (3rd + 4th year students)
- **6** (2nd year students)

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE & CULTURE

FIGURE 21: CULTURAL PROGRAM

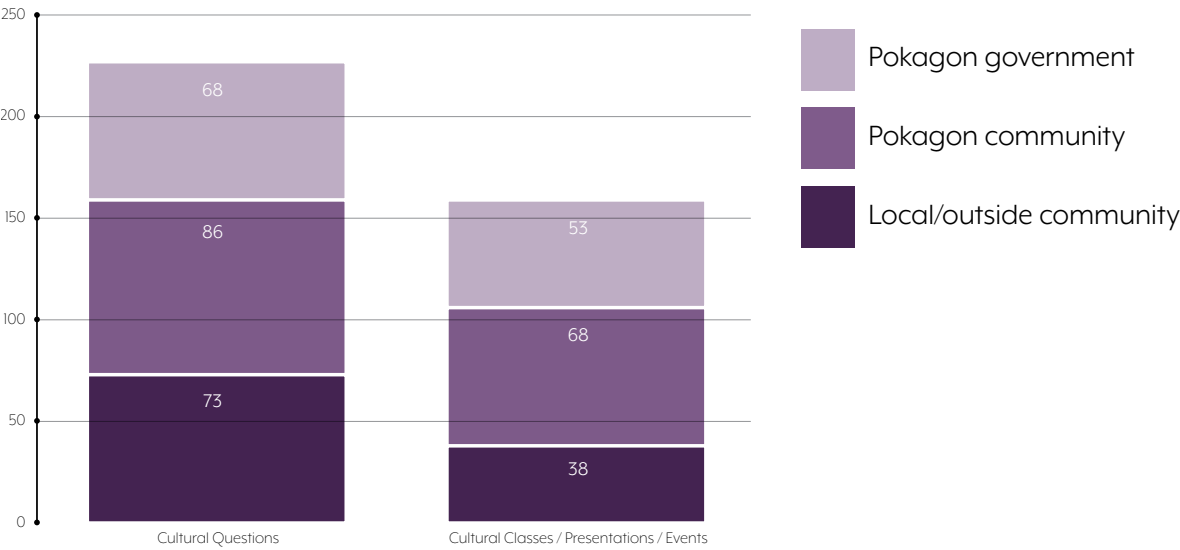


FIGURE 22: LANGUAGE PROGRAM

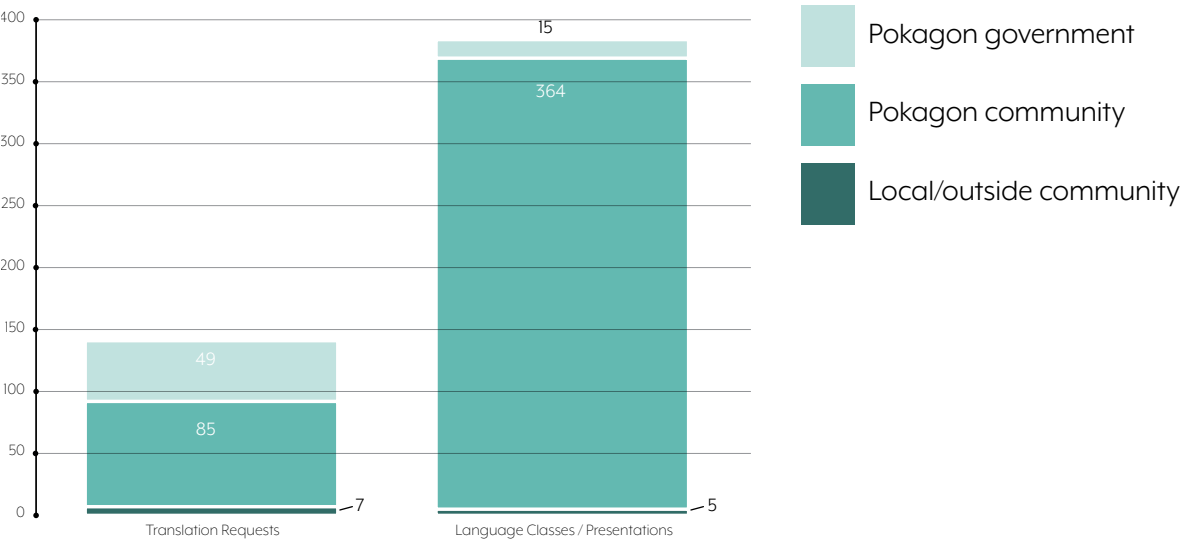




FIGURE 23: TRIBAL HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE

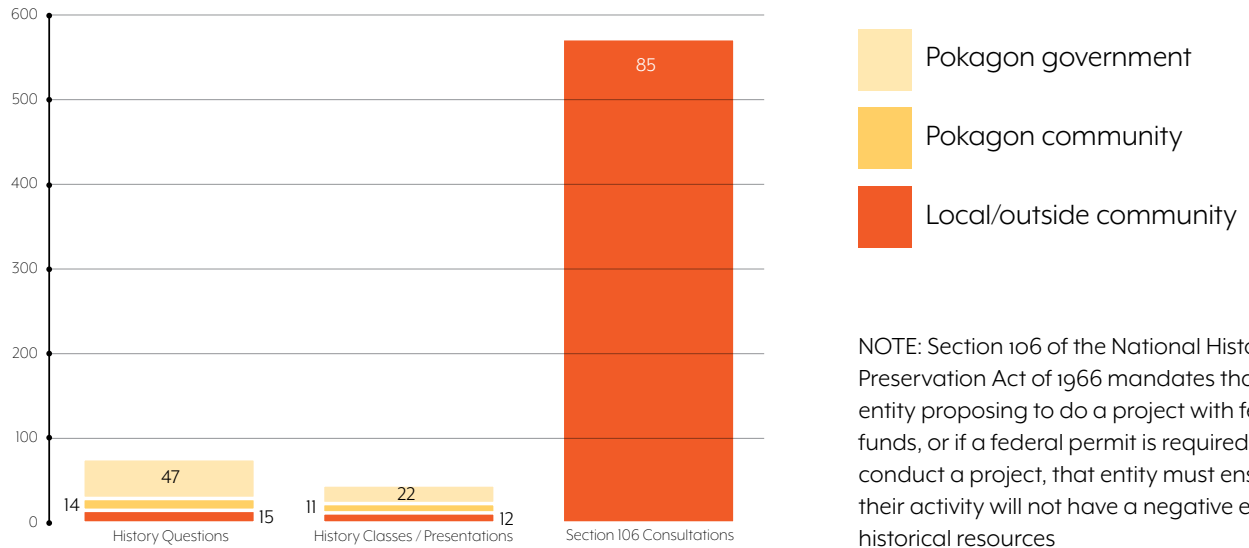
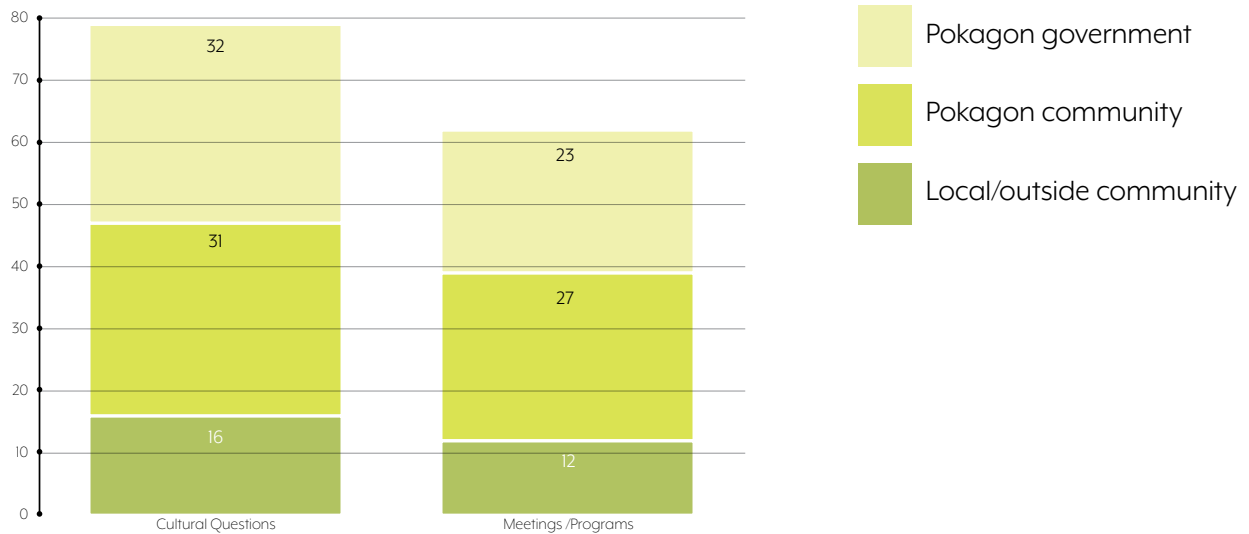


FIGURE 24: YOUTH PROGRAM



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

As part of the on-going effort to monitor wildlife on tribal properties, the Pokagon Department of Natural Resources used a unique technique to count rare and cryptic eastern box turtles this year: Boykin Spaniels. The grassy and sometimes forested habitat of eastern box turtles makes them harder to trap and find than turtles that live mainly in the water. During 2016, the Pokagon DNR captured **61 box turtles** with the spaniels that sniffed out eastern box turtles. The dogs have a soft mouth, so when they pick up a turtle they pick it up gently and do not bite down. The dogs traversed much of the Band's properties that possibly contained eastern box turtles over 11 days. The number of turtles caught during 2016 far outweighs the number found last year (13), and thanks to these turtle dogs the Pokagon Band DNR could better identify habitats that the eastern box turtles prefer. Finding preferred habitats allows Pokagon DNR to better manage for the species with population analyses, nest protection, habitat enhancement, or home range and diet analyses to further understand what eastern box turtles need to thrive. If you find a turtle on tribal properties please call or bring in the turtle. Also, if you see a turtle laying eggs on tribal properties please contact the Pokagon DNR so that the nest can be protected from egg predators including raccoons, opossums and foxes.

The Pokagon Department of Natural Resources rolled out new hunting, fishing and gathering software during 2016. The new licenses look similar to state licenses, are waterproof, and easy to carry. The process to obtain a license is faster, streamlined, and synced with CRM. All licenses and permits still expire each year on March 31, and each year licenses will be a different color from previous years for the Conservation Officers to easily distinguish. Be sure to update all of your information with Enrollment to obtain a license. Citizen spouses need a marriage license on file with Enrollment before obtaining a hunting, fishing and gathering license. Not sure if you are in CRM for licenses? Give the Pokagon DNR a call to check.

LICENSES ISSUED | 2016

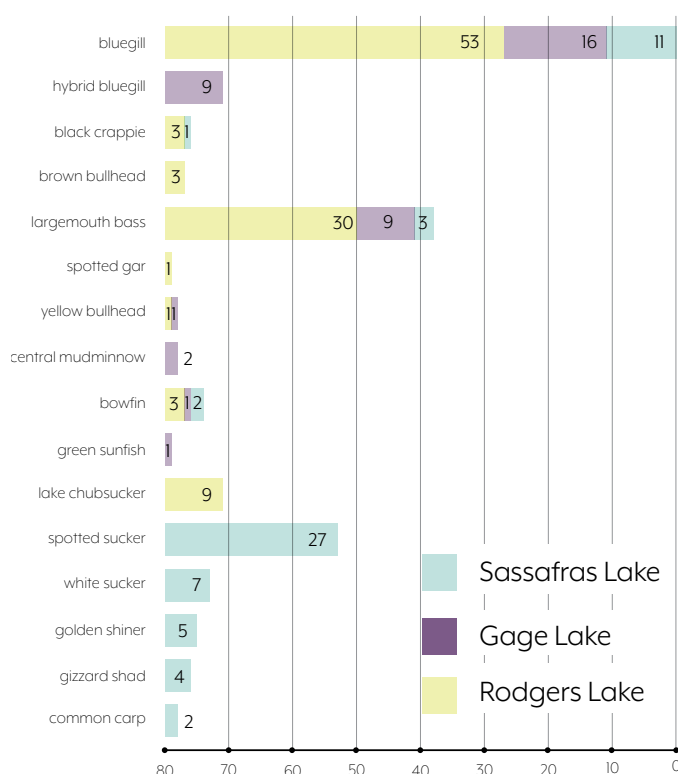
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The Pokagon Department of Natural Resources assisted in or led multiple education and outreach events to hundreds of citizens and non-citizens during 2016. These included the family fishing day, earth day/arbor day, hunters safety, wild game dinner, baby celebration, One Story, rice harvesting, rice camp, Dreamcatchers Culture Camp, gathering days, and cultural education days. Throughout the year the DNR was able to provide education and outreach regarding wildlife, plants, edibles, invasive species, green energy, water quality, and best natural resource practices. DNR is looking to expand education and outreach activities in the upcoming year to better target all age groups.



The Pokagon Department of Natural Resources continued to survey fish in lakes and streams during 2016. DNR used electrofishing on tribal lakes for the first time. Electrofishing provides a small electric current in the water and temporarily stuns the fish to be able to capture them. All fish are then identified to species, measured, weighed, and returned to the waters. You have to be quick to net when electrofishing because the fish can quickly turn and zip away. Through multiple surveying efforts, including fyke nets, electrofishing, and timing of surveys, the Pokagon DNR is capturing a better picture of the fishes in tribal waters. Electrofishing in streams and rivers in the spring offers a different community than that in the fall. Fyke netting fish in a lake allows for capturing deeper dwelling fish that may not be captured using an electrofishing boat. Through multiple years, DNR can understand the fishing community in each waterway, which helps to see if there are any invasive fish in the waters and the productivity and health of the waters.

FIGURE 25: E-FISHING TRIBAL LAKES



The Pokagon Department of Natural Resources continued to restore and maintain vegetation which relies on fire to increase productivity and enhance biodiversity. During 2016, the Pokagon DNR assisted or led prescribed burning on 124 acres of tribal property, including the areas at Gage, Édawat, Dowagiac, and Mud Lake Drain properties. Fire-dependent communities thrive when burned on a regular basis making the native prairie plants better able to grow and flourish. Burning helps to remove invasive, tolerant, and undesirable species, while promoting a greater number of species to grow. The DNR continues to enhance properties that are burned by planting native seed mixes following burning, which also provides more food for pollinators like monarchs, honeybees, and bumblebees.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Pokagon Department of Natural Resources surveyed aquatic invasive species and mapped current wild rice on tribal properties. Thanks to an EPA grant, a total of four lakes, eight streams, two rivers, and 23 ponds were surveyed. Over 82 native species were identified and five aquatic invasive species were found at various locations in tribal waters. This initial aquatic invasive species and wild rice survey will help develop management practices and target removal of invasive species to help promote native species. Wild rice on tribal properties had a total of 3.4 acres growing. Additionally, the DNR harvested rice from multiple local sources and planted rice in multiple locations to encourage the growth of wild rice on tribal properties.

FIGURE 26: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES BY LOCATION

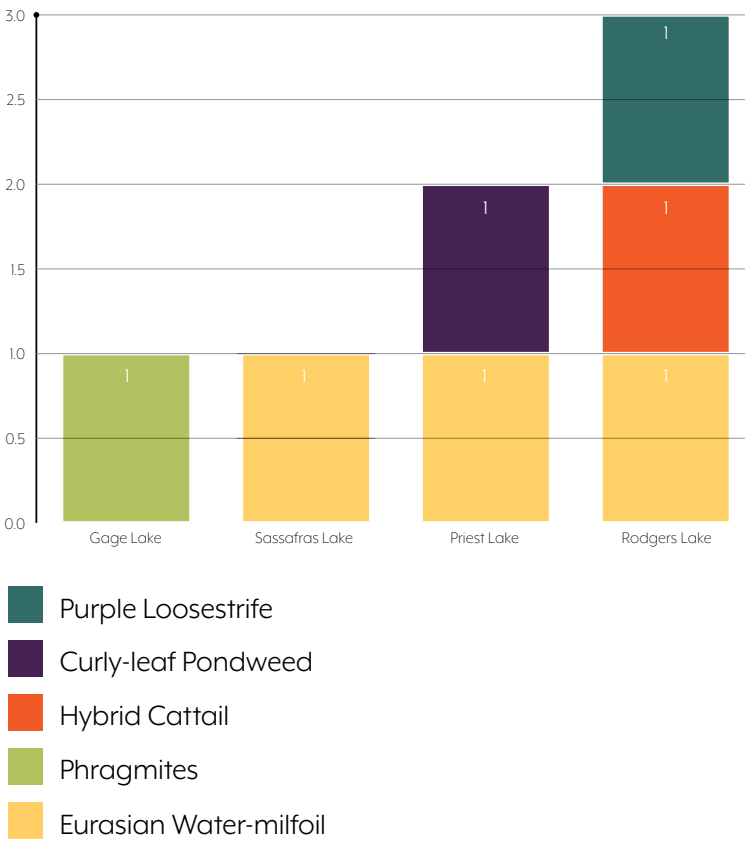


FIGURE 27: TURTLE MONITORING

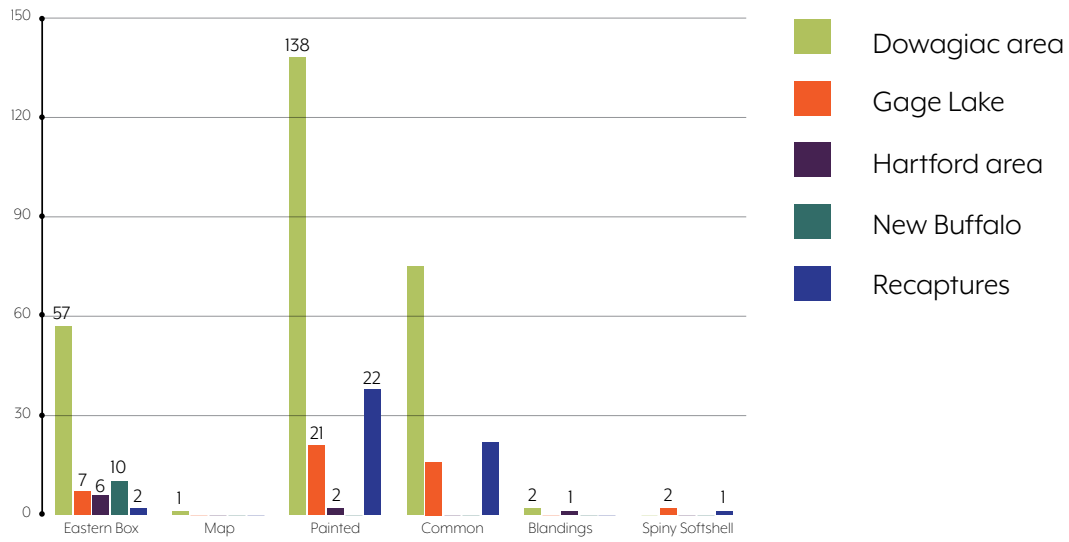


FIGURE 28: PARASITOID WASPS RELEASED



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### 2016 Program Highlights

**LOW INCOME HEAT AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP)** Provides a seasonal heating assistance payment to citizens within the service delivery area. In 2016, **276** Pokagon households received assistance.

**POKAGON BAND COMMODITIES PROGRAM (USDA)** Distributes monthly food supplies to Native American individuals and families within the service delivery area. A total of **866** households benefited from the program in 2016.

**EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM** Provides emergency food supplies to households. For 2016 there were **745** households that benefited from this program.

**CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS (CCDF)** Provides childcare assistance for parents participating in an approved educational plan, employed or training for employment within the service delivery area. The cumulative total of children that benefited from this program was **660**.

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILD AND FAMILY (TITLE IVB)** Title IVB funds are to be used to prevent the breakup of the family, and assist in reunification of families disrupted by the court. For 2016, there were **86** assistance payments made through these programs for services to enhance family outcomes.

**POKAGON BAND BURIAL FUND** The fund provides financial assistance with funeral and related expenses at the time of death of a Pokagon Band member, their spouse, their non-member parents, and their children who were eligible for enrollment with the Pokagon Band. For 2016, the department has processed **33** burial requests.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** The purpose of this program is to supplement, but not replace, federal, state and county assistance programs. In order to qualify an applicant's household income, among other requirements, must be less than \$13,500. There were **85** participants in the program as of December 2016.

**POKAGON BAND HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM** The intent of this program is to stabilize the family unit by creating a healthy environment. The cumulative number of families in the program for 2016 was **182**, impacting a cumulative total of **399** children.

**SUPPLEMENTAL HEATING PROGRAM** The purpose of this program is to provide seasonal heating assistance for Pokagon citizens. Assistance was provided for the entire citizenship. For 2016, there were **442** households that received assistance.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES INITIATIVE** Through this program citizens can access assistance to help with an emergency situation that is impacting everyday life. Car repairs, utility disconnects, eviction notices are examples of issues brought forward. For 2016, a total of **572** households were assisted.

**TITLE VI** This program serves meals five days a week. **4,445** meals were served for 2016, and there were a total of **1,759** take-home meals provided.

**FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION RECRUITER** Two of the department's guiding themes are to facilitate access and referral to tribal and community resources and programs that empower Band citizens and their families, and to provide services that promote the strengthening and support of the traditional family unit. In 2013, the department started recruiting foster care and adoptive homes. For 2016, we had **149** units of service through this program.

**Criminal Arrests**

**426** Misdemeanor

**83** Felony

**3** Federal

Pokagon officers drove **359,777** miles in 2016.

Pokagon Tribal Police took **4,108** complaints.

**Officer Activities**

**629** Michigan Traffic Citations

**114** Tribal Citations

**2,044** Traffic Stops

**1,766** Verbal Warnings

**7,955** Property Inspections

**451** Casino Money Escorts

**945** Community Resource Activities

**238** Alarms

**2,478** Assists Other (EMS, Police, Fire)





## **Acknowledgments + migwetch**

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